

FISHERY MARKET NEWS

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FISHERY MARKET NEWS



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FISHERY MARKET NEWS

A REVIEW OF CONDITIONS AND TRENDS OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

March 1939

Washington, D. C.

Vol. 1, No. 3

SUMMARY

Fresh Fish

New England.--January vessel landings show considerable decrease as compared with same month last year; however, landings of haddock reflect increase. Mackerel fishery continued in January with landings exceeding 100,000 pounds for the month. Pollock landings were less than one-half those of January 1938.

Middle Atlantic.--Striped bass reported much more abundant in Mullica River, New Jersey, this year than in February 1938. Pound net catches in New Jersey were very limited. Hard crabs in New Jersey are reported very abundant but prices down.

Chesapeake Bay.--Final figures show catch of fishery products in Maryland and Virginia decreased 7 percent in volume and 2 percent in value in 1937 as compared with the preceding year.

Pacific Coast.--Receipts of tuna at Southern California canneries show large decrease in January 1939. Fishermen's contract prices for tuna for 1939 down.

Great Lakes.--January receipts of fish at Chicago 5 percent under preceding month. Sauger leading species received in Chicago during January.

Frozen Fish

Domestic holdings of frozen fish on February 15 nearly one-fifth less than on the same date the preceding month, being reflected in virtually all important species. Shrimp accounts for about one-seventh of all New York's cold-storage holdings of fish. Chicago's cold-storage holdings of fish decrease 12 percent in February as compared with preceding month.

Canned Fish

At the end of January unsold canned salmon stocks were 38 percent under the same date last year. The pack of California sardines for the season through January 1939 exceeds that for the same period the preceding year. The California canned mackerel pack in January shows 8 percent increase over January 1938. The January pack of canned tuna in California was 66 percent under that for the same month the preceding year. Washington and Oregon canneries packed 60,000 cases of albacore from frozen stocks during November and December, which is nearly six times the pack from the 1937 catch.

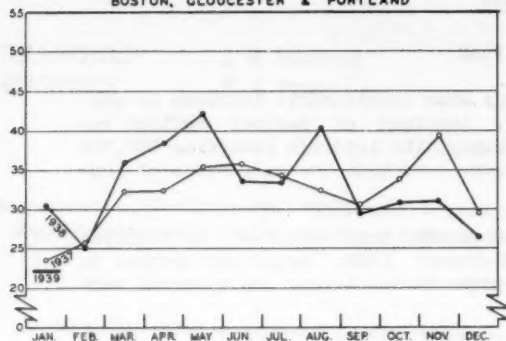
Foreign Fish Trade

Imports during January increased 19 percent and exports 8 percent over January 1938. Exports consisted principally of canned salmon and sardines, and imports were largely fresh-water fish and eels and salted herring.

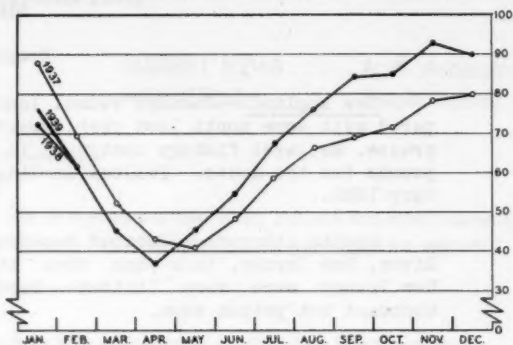
TRENDS OF FISHERY TRADE

In millions of pounds

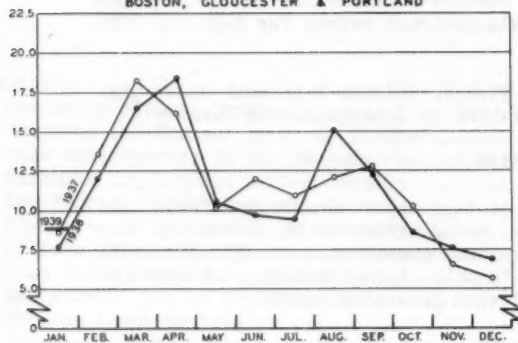
VESSEL LANDINGS, ALL FRESH FISH
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



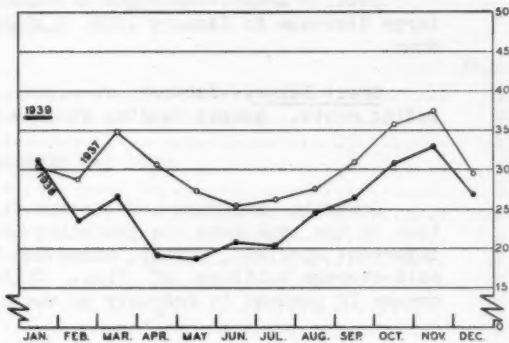
DOMESTIC COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FROZEN FISH



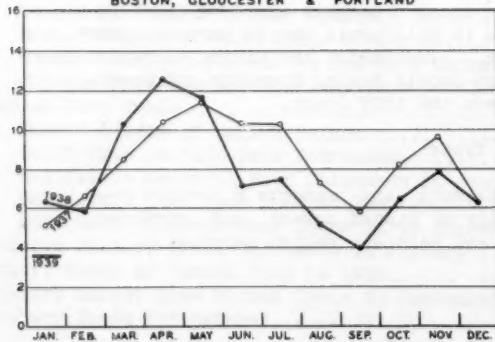
VESSEL LANDINGS, FRESH HADDOCK
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



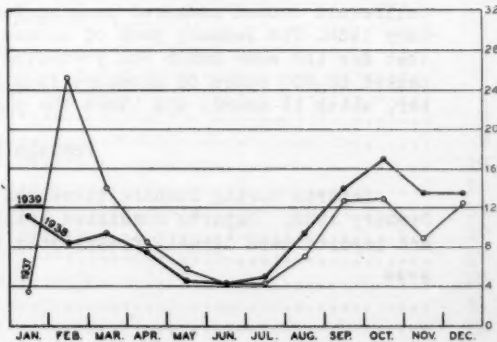
IMPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



VESSEL LANDINGS, FRESH COD
BOSTON, GLOUCESTER & PORTLAND



EXPORTS OF EDIBLE FISHERY COMMODITIES



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CONSIDER THE FISHES

By R. H. Fiedler, Chief
Division of Fishery Industries
U. S. Bureau of Fisheries

It is an old adage that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". More and more, we are coming to realize the truth of this statement, especially insofar as our health is concerned. In recent years the medical profession and others have placed particular emphasis on research to ward off disease.

In the researches conducted by the medical profession and others it has been found, bit by bit, that the food we eat plays a most important role in our well-being. For instance, it has been found that calcium and phosphorus are necessary for the development, growth, and maintenance of sturdy bones and teeth. Iron and copper are essential in the treatment and prevention of nutritional anemia. Iodine is required for the proper functioning of the thyroid gland.

That elusive quality or substance which we call a vitamin also is most necessary in our diet. A deficiency of vitamin A causes eye diseases such as xerophthalmia and night blindness, and, in severe cases of vitamin A deficiency, susceptibility to certain respiratory infections. Lack of vitamin B is evidenced by beri-beri. Insufficient vitamin D, or the "sunshine" vitamin, in the diet brings about rickets. Pellagra results from the absence of vitamin G.

However, minerals and vitamins alone are not sufficient in the diet, for the body also needs a liberal supply of proteins for building of muscles and other body tissues, and fat and carbohydrates for energy.

No doubt, many reading this article can remember some of the painful toothaches you had when a child, and how you probably were told that it came from eating too many sweets or because you did not wash your teeth twice a day. Now, however, we have learned that our diet plays a more important role in keeping our teeth and gums healthy. The tooth brush is still recommended, but principally because clean teeth are more attractive.

Then, too, you no doubt remember some very young children who had difficulty in walking, and when they did walk their legs became bowed. Even today, if you should take a trip through the South, you would see numerous negro babies hobbling about on pitifully deformed limbs. We know now that this is a rachitic condition which is due to the lack of calcium or of vitamin D in the diet, or insufficient sunshine.

In connection with the above statements, it is interesting to note that fish and shellfish have been found to contain minerals and vitamins in varying quantities, and, also, abundant supplies of proteins and fats, depending upon the variety. In addition, some shellfish, like oysters, contain minor quantities of carbohydrates in the form of glycogen, which is sometimes called "animal starch".

The people of some nations have realized for centuries that fish and shellfish, and products derived therefrom, are valuable in the diet. About the time the Puritans were landing at Plymouth Rock in 1620, the crews of French vessels fishing for cod on the Grand Banks off Newfoundland rendered the oil from cod livers and took it home to France where they fed it to their children because it appeared to improve their health and well-being. Science later demonstrated that cod-liver oil, as well as other fish oils such as halibut-liver oil, swordfish-liver oil, sardine oil, and salmon oil, are some of the richest known sources of vitamin D, which is so valuable for preventing and curing rickets. The oil which you get in canned salmon is an especially good source of vitamin D and should be saved and eaten rather than poured down the drain-pipe of the sink. These oils are also rich in vitamin A.

Oysters contain considerable quantities of iron and copper. In fact, oysters rank second to calves' liver as an important source of iron, making them a valuable food for prevention of nutritional anemia. While few of us realize it, an oyster milk stew is a nearly perfect food, for it contains about the right proportions of the various substances needed in an average serving of food.

Canned fish are especially desirable in the diet as the bones can be eaten. These are an important source of calcium for building strong bones and teeth.

In addition to containing so many valuable substances needed in the diet, fish is an easily digested food. This makes it an especially desirable food for the average active person in the present-day mode of living as well as for invalids. Most of us now lead a less active life than that led by our fathers and grandfathers. In their day everyone performed some form of manual labor, at least to the extent of walking to and from work. Now we are living a more prosaic life, letting machines do our heavy work, and we ride to the office. We get our exercise mainly from playing golf, dancing, and the like. As a result, when we eat heavy foods our digestive system is overtaxed and stomach disorders may result.

It is only natural that fish and shellfish should be so abundant in essential minerals needed in our diet, and also that the meat of fish should be so tender. For centuries erosion of the soil has carried the minerals from the surface of the land into that huge mixing bowl we call the sea. Here these minerals are combined with various microscopic plant and animal life, which in turn is eaten by higher forms of aquatic life, and these forms in turn by fish. Thus, the fish in general lives in an environment which is all sufficient and therefore has none of the deficiencies of plants and animals taken from land sources.

Fish do not need as strong muscular tissues as land animals. The latter need relatively strong muscles, to keep erect and to walk. On the other hand, fish, being buoyant, are suspended in water and need muscular strength only to propel themselves through the water. For this reason, fish consist mainly of tender meat and the bony structure is relatively small compared to the total weight of the body. This tender quality is borne out in the cooking and eating of fish, for fish flesh is quickly cooked and in turn easily masticated.

As a final consideration, I believe most of us will agree that fish tastes good. It has that delectable flavour, sometimes called the "tang o' the sea", which is not available in any other food. Because of this attribute alone, many oftentimes choose a seafood dinner.

The housewife has a wide variety of aquatic products from which to choose in planning the menu. In fact, some 160 varieties of fish and shellfish are harvested from our waters. About 12 of these make up 80 percent of the catch. These are salmon, sardines, herring, haddock, oysters, mackerel, cod, shrimp, crabs, tuna, flounders, and halibut. These and many others of the 160 varieties are available in your local markets from time to time in the fresh, frozen, cured, and canned conditions.

Many delicious dishes can be prepared from these products, including not only fried, broiled, baked, or boiled fish, but also fish chowders, salads, and combination dishes with vegetables and fruits. If you are in doubt as to how to cook these dishes, send ten cents to the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for Fishery Circular No. 19, entitled "Practical Fish Cookery", and Fishery Circular No. 21, entitled "The Story of Oysters".

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SOME DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HADDOCK FISHERY BETWEEN 1914 AND 1936

In the course of the Bureau's investigation of the North Atlantic haddock fishery, it has been necessary to make detailed studies of the past records of the fishery. Through the cooperation of operators of fishing boats and of other organizations, it has been pos-

sible to obtain very good records extending back to 1914. Comparison of the haddock fishery during the years 1914 to 1916 with the fishery 20 years later furnishes some interesting results.

It has been found that during the earlier period mentioned, the average length of trip by the large steam trawlers, which were coming into use at that time, was about 6 days. Twenty years later, the average trip for large otter trawlers of the 1934 to 1936 fleet was about 10 days, an increase of nearly 70 percent. This increase in length of trip indicates two things. First, it had been found necessary to fish on more distant banks and to spend a longer time on the fishing grounds due to the decreased abundance of fish on the nearby banks. Second, this increase in length of time at sea was made possible through improvements in refrigeration and in methods of handling the fish, which enabled the fishermen to keep the catch in good condition for a greater length of time.

Another interesting comparison shows that during 1914 to 1917, haddock made up 85 percent of the total amount of fish caught by the steam trawlers; while during the recent period, this species has made up but little more than 57 percent of the total catch of the large boats. This decline in the proportion of haddock resulted from the extension of fishing effort to other species when it was found impossible to fully supply the expanding market with haddock alone. This trend has resulted in the development of the present important fishery for redfish and in a considerable increase in the catch of cod, pollock, and several other species.

MACKEREL AGAIN TAKEN DURING JANUARY

Until recent years it was believed that mackerel were not available off New England during January in sufficient quantities to support a commercial fishery. However, last year vessels operating from Boston took 15,000 pounds of mackerel during January. This year several vessels from Boston and Gloucester attempted to locate schools of this fish during January and were rewarded with catches totaling 112,000 pounds.

Since fishermen have been successful in locating schools of mackerel during January in each of the last two years, it appears likely that these fish will continue to be taken after December 31 in succeeding years and consumers will have a new source of fresh fish in midwinter.

NEW ENGLAND VESSEL LANDINGS DECREASE

Vessel landings of fishery products at the three principal New England ports during January were unusually small, amounting to but 22,188,000 pounds as compared with 30,145,000 pounds during the same month last year. January was the fifth consecutive month in which vessel landings at the three ports were less than those for the same month the preceding year. The landings of all important species except haddock and mackerel declined, those of cod, pollock, and rosefish each being approximately 2,500,000 pounds less than the landings of these species during January 1938.

Fishermen received \$670,000 for the products landed during January as compared with \$809,000 during the same month last year. The principal items landed, according to value, were as follows: Haddock, 8,727,000 pounds, valued at \$308,000; cod, 3,573,000 pounds, valued at \$138,000; and rosefish, 4,750,000 pounds, valued at \$84,000.

FISHERIES OF NEW JERSEY IN FEBRUARY

The Bureau's agent in New Jersey reports that striped bass in the Mullica River are considerably more abundant this year than during February 1938. Catches by pound nets were extremely limited during February, whereas in the preceding two months whiting were found in abundance. Supplies of hard crabs are said to be about three times as abundant as during February 1938 but prices are down about one-third this year.

OYSTERS AND CRABS IMPORTANT IN CHESAPEAKE BAY FISHERIES

The commercial catch of fishery products in Maryland and Virginia in 1937 amounted to 292,244,000 pounds, valued at \$6,361,000. This is a decrease of 7 percent in volume and 2 percent in value as compared with the catch in the previous year.

Based on value to the fishermen, the famous Chesapeake Bay oyster and crab fisheries continued to lead all others. The catch of market oysters in the two States amounted to 31,716,000 pounds of meats, valued at \$2,301,000, while 49,115,000 pounds of crabs, valued at \$1,394,000, were taken.

Considering the fisheries of the individual States in this section, a total of 9,587 commercial fishermen in Virginia took 199,118,000 pounds of finny fish, valued at \$1,983,000, and 43,174,000 pounds of shellfish, valued at \$1,846,000. Of the total poundage of fish taken, 121,965,000 pounds, valued at \$485,000, were menhaden, which were used principally for reduction into oil and meal. In Maryland 6,942 fishermen took 10,365,000 pounds of finny fish, valued at \$393,000, and 39,588,000 pounds of shellfish, valued at \$2,139,000.

Other persons employed in the fisheries of Maryland and Virginia were 1,196 men on transporting craft and 12,005 persons employed in the 561 fishery wholesale and manufacturing establishments in the two States. Salaries and wages paid in these establishments during 1937 amounted to \$3,068,000; and manufactured products (canned, cured, packaged, and byproducts) produced were valued at \$10,010,000. In 1936 there were 585 fisheries wholesale and manufacturing establishments. Aggregate salaries and wages amounted to \$3,073,000; and manufactured products were valued at \$9,814,000.

TUNA CATCH DECREASES IN CALIFORNIA

The receipts of tuna at Southern California canneries during January 1939 amounted to only 733 tons as compared with 2,299 tons in the same month a year ago and 2,620 tons in January 1937. This decline is accounted for by the restricted operations of most of the tuna fleet since last September. Normal operations were resumed in January of this year but very few vessels have had time to take capacity loads. Most of the vessels leaving in January are fishing in extreme southern waters and consequently cannot be expected to return before March. A few vessels which are fortunate enough to make good catches on closer banks are likely to return in February.

The new contract prices for tuna for 1939 as paid to the fishermen are: Yellowfin tuna, \$110 per ton; bluefin tuna, \$100 per ton; skipjack or striped tuna, \$90 per ton; and albacore, \$125 per ton. The prices for yellowfin, bluefin, and skipjack tuna are \$10 per ton less than in 1938. The price for albacore is \$75 per ton under the original 1938 contract price. It is not expected that this decline in the prices of the raw fish will materially affect the prices of canned tuna since the market price of the finished product had declined during 1938.

EARLY SMELT RUN IN COWLITZ

When the Columbia River smelt reaches the Cowlitz River, enroute to the spawning grounds, the local population turns out en masse with every conceivable type of apparatus of capture to scoop the hapless fish from the river. Bird cages, waste baskets, dish pans, buckets, tennis rackets, and snow shoes are some of the commoner types of gear used. One enterprising tourist, finding himself unprepared for such good fortunes of nature, finally took inventory of his baggage and emerged grinning with his golf bag. With three scoops he caught his 20-pound limit. The "sport" fishermen are limited to 20 pounds each per day. In the absence of weighing scales, a factor of eight fish per pound is used.

CHICAGO RECEIPTS DOWN

Fishery receipts for January at the Chicago wholesale market totaled 3,713,000 pounds, a decline of 5 percent in comparison with December receipts. Of the entire receipts, 1,753,000 pounds, or approximately 47 percent, originated in eight Provinces of Canada. The Province most important in supplying the Chicago market with fish during January was Manitoba, with 1,193,000 pounds, which consisted principally of sauger, yellow pike, and yellow perch. Twenty-five States and Alaska also contributed to Chicago's fish supply during January. The two States leading in quantity contributed were Michigan, with 271,000 pounds, and Wisconsin, with 265,000 pounds, the principal fish in volume from each State being lake trout.

CHICAGO IMPORTS LARGE QUANTITIES OF SAUGER DURING JANUARY

The principal fish in quantity to arrive at the Chicago wholesale market during January was sauger with receipts totaling 822,000 pounds, 78,000 pounds of which were frozen. In comparison with receipts of this species for the previous month, the January receipts reflected an acute increase of 91 percent or 392,000 pounds for this variety. With the exception of negligible quantities originating in Minnesota, all Chicago receipts of sauger were imported from the Province of Manitoba. In addition to sauger, 75 other varieties of fish and shellfish entered this market during January. Following sauger in poundage was frozen halibut with receipts of 373,000 pounds from Alaska, Washington, and British Columbia, while next came shrimp with 244,000 pounds, principally from Louisiana and Texas.

The most popular carrier in transporting fishery commodities to Chicago during January was rail freight which carried 61 percent of all receipts; motor-trucks conveyed 21 percent; and express, 18 percent.

CODFISH CATCH INCREASES IN NEWFOUNDLAND

The catch of codfish in Newfoundland during 1938 was estimated at 1,147,000 quintals of 112 pounds each, according to information released by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The 1938 catch represented an increase of 15 percent over that for 1937 and 38 percent over the 1936 catch. Of the total catch in 1938, the shore fishery produced 506,000 quintals; the Labrador fishery, 408,000 quintals; and the bank fishery, 233,000 quintals.

The shore fishery, with an increase of 37 percent over the preceding year showed the most outstanding development. This was most gratifying to Newfoundland fishery interests since 75 percent of the fishing population is dependent upon this branch of the fishery.

Total exports of salted codfish for the 11 months of 1938 ended November 30 amounted to 1,108,000 quintals as compared with 888,000 quintals during the same period of 1937. The important countries of consignment for Newfoundland salted cod in 1938 were, in order: Italy, Puerto Rico, Portugal, Brazil, and Jamaica. These countries accounted for 76 percent of the exports.

POTENTIAL YIELD OF OIL FROM SALMON WASTE HIGH

The Pacific salmon industry of the United States and Alaska provides a source of raw material capable of yielding approximately 1,500,000 gallons of salmon oil annually from waste material, according to Fisheries Investigational Report #40, entitled "Pacific Salmon Oils", by Roger W. Harrison, Andrew W. Anderson, S. R. Pottinger, and Charles F. Lee. To date, production has seldom exceeded 200,000 gallons. In view of this wide divergence between potential and actual production, the Bureau of Fisheries has given attention to ways and means for assisting the industry towards greater and more profitable utilization of salmon cannery waste.

During the course of these investigations, a large number of oil samples have been prepared and studied in the laboratory to determine their chemical, physical, and biological

cal properties. Since information of this type is indicative of the utility of an oil to the consumer, the data have been assembled to further acquaint industry with the nature of salmon oils. The data should be of interest in evaluating certain problems of production and distribution and suggest possibilities for the wider use of salmon oils.

Also, knowledge of the characteristics of the oils from the various species of salmon may prove of interest in other problems of the salmon industry not directly related to the utilization of the waste material.

The report includes information on the source of salmon oils; their properties; their proximate composition; and relation between iodine number, refractive index, and specific gravity.

The report may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 5 cents.

FATS AND OILS TRADE IN 1938

A very comprehensive report entitled "Fats and Oils Trade of the United States in 1938", by Charles E. Lund, has recently been released by the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. The report brings out that our imports of fats and oils, arriving from every section of the world, supply from 20 to 30 percent of our needs in this field, domestic supplies being inadequate for our requirements, particularly for inedible use. The report includes detailed statistics of imports and exports of the various classes of fats and oils, and includes sections on production and prices.

A limited supply of these reports is available for free distribution upon application to the Foodstuffs Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

FROZEN FISH TRADE

Stocks of Frozen Fishery Products Continue to Decline

Total holdings of frozen fishery products in the United States on February 15 totaled 62,109,000 pounds, which was nearly 15,000,000 pounds less than the amount held on the same date the previous month. Cold-storage statistics show that during the last four months of 1938 holdings of frozen fishery products averaged approximately 13,500,000 pounds more than those during the same months in 1937. Since the first of the current year there has been a rapid decrease in holdings and on February 15 they were almost identical in total quantity with those on the same date last year. This would indicate that there has been an unusually large consumption of frozen fishery products since the first of the current year.

During the month ended February 15, 6,464,000 pounds of fishery products were frozen as compared with 5,769,000 pounds during the previous month.

Cold-storage holdings of haddock and pollock fillets on February 15 were each approximately 1,500,000 pounds less than on the same date the previous month; holdings of whiting decreased 1,700,000 pounds; and halibut nearly 2,500,000 pounds. The only important items the holdings of which were greater than those on January 15 were Canadian tullibees, which increased 347,000 pounds; smelts, which increased 814,000 pounds; and whitefish, which increased 121,000 pounds.

The principal items in storage on February 15 were haddock fillets, halibut, mackerel, salmon, whiting, and shrimp. The holdings of each of these items amounted to over 3,000,000 pounds.

Current holdings in the New England, Middle Atlantic, and the Western North Central States were less than those of a year ago, while stocks in all other sections were greater.

Boston Frozen Fish Holdings Down

Cold-storage holdings of frozen fishery commodities at Boston on the last Wednesday in February totaled 8,968,000 pounds. In comparison with January figures, this was a drop of 4,595,000 pounds or 34 percent. The reduction in holdings was primarily attributable to increased withdrawals of haddock and pollock fillets, mackerel, and whiting. The Boston warehouses reported their holdings as consisting of 35 varieties of fish and shellfish, the largest individual item stored being pollock fillets, with 1,425,000 pounds, a decrease of 48 percent in comparison with January holdings. Of the total fish and shellfish in the Boston warehouses, 3,897,000 pounds or 43 percent consisted of fillets. The principal species of frozen fillets were haddock and pollock.

While the Boston cold-storage holdings as a whole sharply declined during February, individual items indicated considerable increases during the period, notably smelt and sea herring.

Frozen Shrimp Important in New York Market

The importance of New York City to southern shrimp producers and dealers as a market for their product is indicated by the holdings of fishery products in New York's cold-storage warehouses compiled by the Bureau's office at that point on February 23. On that date approximately one-seventh of all New York's fishery holdings consisted of shrimp, 1,097,000 pounds being in storage. In comparison with the holdings of four weeks previous, this was a decline of 333,000 pounds or 23 percent. In addition to shrimp, the New York freezers stored 61 other varieties of seafoods. On the last Thursday in February the total cold-storage holdings of fishery commodities at New York amounted to 7,342,000 pounds, a decline of 16 percent in comparison with figures for the preceding month. The reduction in holdings was effected not only by decreased quantities of shrimp in storage but also by smaller holdings of scallops, mackerel, sturgeon, and butterfish. The species of second importance in poundage was sturgeon, with 804,000 pounds, a decrease of 12 percent during the 4-week period. The holdings of smelt and Caspian salmon were considerably increased during February.

Chicago Cold-storage Holdings Show Little Change

Chicago cold-storage holdings consisted of 51 varieties of frozen fish and shellfish totaling 5,279,000 pounds on the last Thursday in February. In comparison with January holdings, this was a decrease of 702,000 pounds or 12 percent. The reduction in cold-storage holdings was due largely to decreased quantities of shrimp, lake trout, lake herring, and chubs. The principal fishery commodity with respect to quantity stored in Chicago during February continued to be shrimp with 740,000 pounds. However, in comparison with January holdings, this was a decrease of 259,000 pounds or 26 percent. Although the trend of storage holdings was downward, individual storage items indicated increased holdings for February, notably tullibees and whitefish in fresh-water varieties, and halibut and haddock fillets for the salt-water species.

CANNED FISH TRADE

Unsold Stocks of Canned Salmon

Unsold stocks of canned salmon amounted to 2,397,000 standard cases of 48 one-pound cans on January 31, 1939, according to a statement released by the Association of Pacific Fisheries. Stocks at the end of the preceding month amounted to 2,769,000 cases, and on January 31, 1938, they aggregated 3,839,000 cases. The large decrease this year as compared with a year ago was reflected principally in pink salmon.

The unsold stocks on January 31, 1939, were distributed by species as follows: Alaska reds, 52 percent; pinks, 30 percent; chums, 7 percent; cohoes, silvers, and medium reds combined, 5 percent; and chinooks, Puget Sound sockeyes, bluebacks, and steelheads, the remaining 6 percent.

California Sardine Pack Increases

According to information released by the Division of Fish and Game of the State of California, the pack of sardines in that State for the 1938-1939 season up to the end of January aggregated about 2,000,000 cases of 48 one-pound cans as compared with 1,792,000 cases during the same period the previous year. Of the total pack during the current season, 1,288,000 cases were canned in the Monterey and Northern California districts, and 712,000 cases in the San Pedro and San Diego districts. The total pack in California during January 1939 amounted to 568,000 cases as compared with 434,000 cases during the same month of 1938.

California Mackerel Pack Decreases in January

The pack of canned mackerel during January 1939 amounted to about 134,000 cases of 48 one-pound cans, according to preliminary data issued by the Division of Fish and Game of the State of California. This is a decrease of 8 percent as compared with the pack in the same month of 1938. The entire pack during January 1939 was produced in the San Pedro district. Almost all of the output was packed in one-pound cans, with only minor quantities being produced in half-pound sizes.

California Tuna Pack Down in January

The Division of Fish and Game of California, in its preliminary monthly statement, records the pack of tuna and tunalike fishes for January 1939 to be about 26,000 cases of 48 half-pound cans. When compared with 77,000 cases in January 1938, the first figures of 1939 reflect a decrease of nearly 66 percent. About 69 percent of the entire January pack consisted of yellowfin tuna. Other contributing commodities were striped tuna (skipjack); tuna, tonno style; bonito; tuna flakes; and albacore. As in December 1938, the entire pack was produced in the San Pedro and San Diego districts.

Northwest Albacore Pack Shows Large Increase

During November and December of 1938, four salmon canneries in Washington and Oregon packed 60,000 cases (6½-ounce cans, 48 to the case) of albacore from frozen stocks caught during the past summer and fall months. This is nearly six times the quantity packed a year ago, when three canneries canned approximately 11,000 cases of the 1937 catch. However, the current pack was not completed until February 1939, and it is estimated that the Washington and Oregon pack of albacore from the 1938 catch will exceed 100,000 cases.

FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE INCREASES IN JANUARY

United States foreign trade in edible fishery products during the first month of 1939 increased as compared with the same month last year. Imports amounted to 36,994,000 pounds, an increase of 19 percent as compared with January 1938, while exports totaled 12,066,000 pounds, an increase of 8 percent.

The principal fishery imports during the month were in the groups of fresh and frozen lake fish, salted cod and related species, salted herring, canned sardines, and fresh and frozen lobsters. As usual, the principal items exported were canned salmon and sardines.

EXPORT TRADE OF CANNED FISH IN 1938

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce released a report during February on the export trade of canned and dried foods in 1938. A considerable portion of the report,

which was prepared by C. E. Birgfeld, assistant chief of the Foodstuffs Division, is devoted to the export trade in canned fish. The following is quoted from the report:

"Ample domestic supplies and lower export prices enabled shipments of canned salmon from the United States in 1938 to exceed those of 1937 by more than one-fourth. The 26 percent increase in volume in 1938 was accompanied by a decline in average declared export value per pound to 15.1 cents from 17.5 cents in 1937.

"Owing to the larger shipments (of canned salmon) to the United Kingdom in 1938, stocks there at the end of the year were fairly heavy although sales were seasonally good. No real forward buying activity is expected for the first three or four months of 1939. British stock prices are higher than those of American packers, and the rising tendency of American prices was slowing up orders in early January. The 1939 outlook for sales to England is good provided prices are maintained at reasonable levels.

"Exports of canned salmon to France rose from 1937 to 1938 by more than one-third, and in the latter year exceeded the regular quota allotment to the United States. The canned salmon quota for this country is for 1939 (as in 1937 and 1938) 2,500 metric quintals per quarter, or about 2,200,000 pounds for the year. It was possible to exceed the 1938 quota because of a special allocation on September 17, 1938, of 3,500 quintals from the Russian quota. There is a good demand in France for salmon, principally the pink, but the total is limited by the amount of the quota.

"A more than one-fifth decline in total exports of canned sardines from the United States from 1937 to 1938 was caused principally by Japanese competition in European countries which accounted for most of the decline. In the United Kingdom Japanese prices in the early part of 1939 were from three to four shillings per case under the American. In Belgium the influence of Japanese competition was particularly noticeable in the decline in sales of the United States product.

"Contrary to the European situation, Far Eastern markets for American pilchards improved in 1939 owing to reluctance of consumers to purchase Japanese goods, and sales to British Malaya and the Netherlands Indies reached a volume in 1938 not previously recorded for many years."

The report also includes detailed statistics of the United States exports of salmon, sardines, and shrimp by countries of destination for the 4-year period from 1935 to 1938 inclusive. Copies of the report are available for free distribution in limited quantities upon application to the Foodstuffs Division, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington, D. C.

FISHERY MARKET NEWS OFFICE OPENS IN JACKSONVILLE

The fifth office of the Bureau's Fishery Market News Service began the daily publication of news relating to fishery markets at Jacksonville, Fla., on March 6. Similar offices had previously been established during 1938 in New York City, Boston, Chicago, and Seattle. The Jacksonville daily report will consist of data on the daily production of fish, including shrimp, in Florida; shipments of fishery products out of Florida by rail and truck; prices of fishery products in Florida; a summary of market supplies and prices in New York and Boston; weekly cold-storage movements and holdings at storage warehouses in the Southern States; and the weekly pack of canned shrimp. Fluctuation in market supplies of fishery commodities which frequently have resulted in substantial losses to the industry have been caused largely by inadequate current market information available to producers, middlemen, and other fishery interests. Economy in marketing transactions depends on buyers knowing where and when supplies can be obtained most economically, and producers knowing where and when they can sell to the best advantage. The exchange of such data by the Bureau of Fisheries comprises the Fishery Market News Service. Persons interested in receiving daily fishery reports from Jacksonville should communicate with the Bureau of Fisheries, 309 Duval Building, Jacksonville, Fla. There is no charge for these reports.

FISHERY TRADE INDICATORS
(Expressed in Thousands of Pounds)

| Item | Month | Latest month | Same month a year ago | Previous month |
|--|----------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| FRESH FISH LANDINGS | | | | |
| Boston, Mass. | January | 19,679 | 26,900 | 22,306 |
| Gloucester, Mass. | do | 1,783 | 2,687 | 3,639 |
| Portland, Me. | do | 726 | 558 | 592 |
| Boston, Gloucester, and Portland: | | | | |
| Cod..... | do | 3,573 | 6,355 | 6,442 |
| Haddock..... | do | 8,727 | 7,743 | 6,840 |
| Pollock..... | do | 2,028 | 4,576 | 5,081 |
| Rosefish..... | do | 4,750 | 7,166 | 3,334 |
| FISH RECEIPTS, CHICAGO 1/ | | | | |
| Salt-water fish..... | do | 852 | (2) | 821 |
| Fresh-water fish..... | do | 2,381 | (2) | 2,326 |
| Shellfish, etc. | do | 480 | (2) | 744 |
| By truck..... | do | 790 | (2) | 1,192 |
| By express..... | do | 649 | (2) | 771 |
| By freight..... | do | 2,275 | (2) | 1,929 |
| COLD-STORAGE HOLDINGS 3/ | | | | |
| New York, N. Y.: | | | | |
| Salt-water fish..... | February | 3,547 | (2) | 4,188 |
| Fresh-water fish..... | do | 2,097 | (2) | 2,196 |
| Shellfish, etc. | do | 1,698 | (2) | 2,374 |
| Boston, Mass.: | | | | |
| Salt-water fish..... | do | 8,273 | (2) | 12,594 |
| Fresh-water fish..... | do | 32 | (2) | 43 |
| Shellfish, etc. | do | 663 | (2) | 926 |
| Chicago, Ill.: | | | | |
| Salt-water fish..... | do | 1,474 | (2) | 1,440 |
| Fresh-water fish..... | do | 2,522 | (2) | 2,740 |
| Shellfish, etc. | do | 846 | (2) | 1,161 |
| Unclassified..... | do | 437 | (2) | 640 |
| United States: | | | | |
| Haddock fillets..... | do | 3,016 | 4,313 | 4,602 |
| Halibut..... | do | 4,742 | 4,317 | 7,234 |
| Mackerel..... | do | 3,357 | 2,380 | 4,390 |
| Pollock fillets..... | do | 2,883 | 3,731 | 4,280 |
| Rosefish fillets..... | do | 1,086 | 3,244 | 1,224 |
| Salmon..... | do | 7,948 | 7,218 | 10,860 |
| Whitefish..... | do | 1,844 | 1,678 | 1,723 |
| Whiting..... | do | 5,743 | 4,392 | 7,457 |
| Shrimp..... | do | 5,332 | (2) | 5,443 |
| New England, all species..... | do | 15,733 | 19,573 | 20,940 |
| Middle Atlantic, all species..... | do | 12,903 | 14,203 | 13,930 |
| South Atlantic, all species..... | do | 2,596 | 2,357 | 3,499 |
| North Central East, all species..... | do | 10,441 | 6,606 | 11,585 |
| North Central West, all species..... | do | 4,259 | 4,445 | 4,828 |
| South Central, all species..... | do | 1,860 | 742 | 2,269 |
| Pacific, all species..... | do | 14,318 | 12,257 | 19,951 |
| FOREIGN FISHERY TRADE 4/ | | | | |
| Exports: | | | | |
| All edible fishery commodities..... | January | 12,066 | 11,140 | 13,512 |
| Canned salmon..... | do | 4,612 | 2,388 | 4,789 |
| Canned sardines..... | do | 4,938 | 5,737 | 6,009 |
| Imports: | | | | |
| All edible fishery commodities..... | do | 36,994 | 31,197 | 26,789 |
| Fresh-water fish and eels, fresh or frozen. | do | 7,357 | 7,718 | 5,153 |
| Canned tuna..... | do | 696 | 281 | 340 |
| Canned sardines..... | do | 2,151 | 1,745 | 2,000 |
| Cod, haddock, hake, etc., pickled or salted. | do | 4,994 | 2,688 | 2,125 |
| Herring, pickled or salted..... | do | 7,426 | 5,396 | 4,680 |
| Crab meat, sauce, and paste..... | do | 978 | 420 | 242 |
| Lobsters, not canned..... | do | 1,220 | 1,360 | 1,365 |
| Lobsters, canned..... | do | 52 | 14 | 76 |

1/ Consists of direct receipts of dealers, brokers, and smokers.

2/ Data not available.

3/ Data for individual cities are as of the last Thursday of the month, except those at Boston which are for the last Wednesday of the month, and those for geographical areas and the total of the United States which are as of the 15th of the month.

4/ From data compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Note.—Data for the latest month are subject to revision.

**PRINCIPAL FIELD OFFICES AND LABORATORIES
OF THE U. S. BUREAU OF FISHERIES**

Division of Fishery Industries

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Boston, Mass. | B. E. Lindgren..... | 253 $\frac{1}{2}$ Northern Ave. Market News Service..... |
| Chicago, Ill. | E. C. Hinsdale..... | 200 N. Jefferson St. Market News Service..... |
| College Park, Md. | J. M. Lemon..... | Horticultural Bldg, U. of Md. Fish. Tech. Laboratory.... |
| Jacksonville, Fla. | S. C. Denham..... | 309 Duval Bldg. Market News Service..... |
| New York, N. Y. | W. H. Dumont..... | 33-A Fulton St. Market News Service..... |
| San Pedro, Calif..... | C. B. Tendick..... | Post Office Bldg. Fishery Statistics..... |
| Seattle, Wash. | V. J. Samson..... | 421 Bell St. Terminal. Mar- ket News Service..... |
| Seattle, Wash. | R. W. Harrison..... | 2725 Montlake Blvd. Fisher- ies Tech. Laboratory..... |

Division of Fish Culture

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| LaCrosse, Wis. | F. C. Culler..... | Divisional Headquarters..... |
| Seattle, Wash. | F. J. Foster..... | 2725 Montlake Blvd. Divi- sional Headquarters..... |

Division of Scientific Inquiry

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Ann Arbor, Mich. | Dr. John Van Oosten..... | University Museums. Great Lakes Fish. Investigations |
| Beaufort, N. C. | Dr. Herbert F. Prytherch... | Fisheries Biological Labora- tory..... |
| Cambridge, Mass. | W. C. Herrington..... | Room A-210 Harvard Biol. Lab. N. At. Fish. Investigations |
| College Park, Md. | Robert A. Nesbit..... | Horticultural Bldg., U. of Md. Mid. & S. At. Fish. Invest. |
| Columbia, Mo. | Dr. M. M. Ellis..... | 101 Willis Ave. Pollution Investigations..... |
| Milford, Conn. | Victor Loosanoff..... | Connecticut Oyster Investi- gations..... |
| New Orleans, La. | M. J. Lindner..... | 336 Chartres St. Gulf Shrimp Investigations..... |
| Pensacola, Fla. | Dr. A. E. Hopkins..... | Box 1456. Gulf Oyster In- vestigations..... |
| Seattle, Wash. | Dr. F. A. Davidson..... | 2725 Montlake Blvd. Fisher- ies Biological Laboratory. |
| Stanford University, Calif. | O. E. Sette..... | Room 450-B. Pilchard Inves- tigations..... |

Division of Alaska Fisheries

| | | |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Juneau, Alaska..... | C. L. Olson..... | Federal Bldg. Alaska Fish- eries Service..... |
| Seattle, Wash. | { H. J. Christoffer..... L. G. Wingard..... | 706 Federal Bldg. Alaska Fisheries Service..... |

FISHERY INDUSTRIES OF THE UNITED STATES

1937

Administrative Report No. 32

The Bureau of Fisheries recently released its annual statistical report on the domestic fisheries. This report is entitled "Fishery Industries of the United States, 1937", by R. H. Fiedler, Chief of the Division of Fishery Industries. It includes information on such subjects as the following:

1. Volume and value of the commercial catch of the many species of fish and shellfish, separately enumerated by types of gear used in their capture and by geographical location of the fishery.
2. Number of fishermen and craft employed and quantity of gear fished, separately enumerated by States and usually by counties.
3. Monthly data on the volume and value of the landings of fish at Boston and Gloucester, Mass., and Portland, Maine, and detailed statistics of the source of these landings according to method of capture and fishing area of origin.
4. Volume and value of the products of the fishery processing industries by kinds of commodities and State of manufacture.
5. Volume of various species of fish held in cold storage and the quantity of each frozen, by months.
6. A summarized statement of the volume and value of our foreign fishery trade.

The report also includes summarized reviews of the many activities of the Division of Fishery Industries during 1937. It may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 25 cents by requesting Fisheries Administrative Report No. 32.

